

Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

International application number: PCT/GB2004/005069

International filing date: 03 December 2004 (03.12.2004)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: GB
Number: 0328043.5
Filing date: 03 December 2003 (03.12.2003)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 03 February 2005 (03.02.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva, Switzerland
Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) - Genève, Suisse



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

Signed

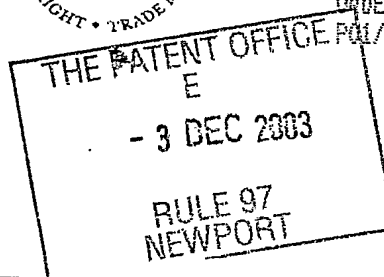
Dated 27 January 2005



04DEC03 E856952-1 002697
P01/7700 0.00-0328043.5

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)



The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

PA/GAF03

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

03 DEC 2003

0328043.5

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

08765257 001

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

KEVIN DOUGLAS HOY
FIELDFARES,
KINGS ASH, GREAT MISSENDEN,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP19 9NP

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention

ANCHORING METHODS AND PRODUCTS OF SUCH METHODS

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

GRAHAM F COLES

GRAHAM COLES & CO
24 SEELEYS ROAD
BEACONSFIELD
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
HP9 1SZ

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

4361556001 ✓

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

5

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s)

4 + 5

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

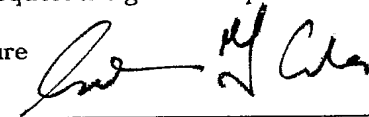
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature



Date

2/12/03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

GRAHAM F COLES ☎ 01494 677181

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 08459 500505.*
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.*
- If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.*
- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.*
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.*
- For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.*

Anchoring Methods and Products of such Methods

5 This invention relates to methods of anchoring fittings and the products of such methods.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of anchoring a fitting to a member
10 wherein at least a part of the fitting is located within a cavity that opens from a surface of the member, and an element having a bore therethrough is entered into the cavity for retention therein, the element plugging the cavity-opening to trap said part within the cavity with a
15 portion of said part in register with said bore.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a member having a fitting anchored thereto wherein at least a part of the fitting is located
20 within a cavity that opens from a surface of the member, and an element having a bore therethrough is located within the cavity for retention therein, said part being trapped within cavity by an element that plugs the cavity-opening with a portion of said part in register
25 with said bore.

The fitting of both aspects of the invention may be a fastener for use in clamping or otherwise securing an item to the surface of the member. More particularly,
30 the fastener may be a screw-threaded nut for engagement by a threaded-rod or screw-bolt entered into the bore, or may have an internally-threaded tubular portion which projects from under the plug-element into the bore; the tubular portion may extend the length of the bore to open
35 at the surface of the member, but may alternatively extend sufficiently to project beyond this. As an alternative, the fitting, whether for use as a fastener

or otherwise, may involve a rod or other component that extends via the bore to project from said surface.

5 The part of the fitting within the cavity may involve a flange which lies flat on the bottom of the cavity, under the plug-element. In this regard, the underside of the plug-element may be recessed to receive the flange inset therein, and the recess may be configured to restrain the flange from turning relative to the plug-insert.

10

The plug-insert may be retained within the cavity by adhesive, and may be of the same material as said member. The member, which, for example, may be in a sheet or slab form, may be of natural mineral or of a man-made mineral material having a composition containing natural mineral particles in acrylic resin.

15

A method of anchoring fittings in a slab member, and the slab member with anchored fittings as a product of the method, in accordance with the present invention, will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

20

Figures 1 and 2 are, respectively, a sectional and exploded side elevation of the slab member with two anchored fittings, according to the invention;

25

Figures 3 and 4 are, respectively, a sectional side elevation and a plan view from above of one of two identical, anchored fittings of the arrangement of Figures 1 and 2;

30

Figures 5 and 6 are, respectively, a sectional side elevation and a plan view from below of one of two identical elements used for anchoring the fittings in the arrangement of Figures 1 and 2; and

35

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a door-hinging arrangement according to the invention, using the principles of the arrangement of Figures 1 and 2.

5 The method and product of the method, to be described, involve the anchoring of metal (or plastics) fasteners in a slab member of a man-made mineral material that has a composition containing natural mineral particles in acrylic resin. In particular, the material of the slab
10 member is a solid non-porous surfacing material which is homogeneously composed of one-third polymethyl methacrylate and two-thirds natural minerals with mineral aluminium trihydrate derived from bauxite as a main component, and which is sold under the Registered Trade
15 Mark CORIAN by E.I DuPont de Nemours and Co..

The anchoring of a fastening to such material has previously been carried out by drilling a hole in the material and inserting a threaded boss of brass or nylon
20 into the hole for retention there as a tight fit. This has not proved satisfactory, in that cracking of the man-made material may result and the boss is prone to pull out. Although adhesive for bonding the mineral material to itself is available, this is not effective for bonding
25 metal or plastics material to it. The method and the product of the method, according to the invention, overcome these problems to provide strong anchoring.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, two stainless-steel
30 fasteners 1 are in this case anchored in the slab member 2 of the man-made mineral material. Each fastener 1 has (as indicated most clearly in Figure 2) an internally-threaded tubular portion 3 that is upstanding from a flanged-base 4, and is located within a respective
35 cylindrical-cavity 5 in the member 2. The cavities 5 each have an opening 6 in a common face 7 of the slab 2, and this opening 6 is plugged within the cavity 5

substantially flush with the face 7, by a cylindrical element 8 of the same material as the slab member 2. In each case, the tubular portion 3 of the respective fastener 1 is located within a central bore 9 of the element 8 to extend the length of the bore 9 and open substantially flush with the face 7.

The elements 8 are bonded in their respective cavities 5 using an appropriate adhesive for bonding the man-made mineral material to itself; an appropriate adhesive is that sold as "Joint Adhesive for DuPont CORIAN" under the Registered Trade Marks DUPONT and CORIAN, by E.I DuPont de Nemours and Co.. With the bonding of the elements 8 in this way, the flanged-bases 4 of the fasteners 1 are securely trapped in their respective cavities 5 and, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, may be engaged by screw-bolts 10 to clamp a fitment 11 to the face 7 of the member 2.

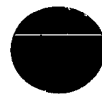
Further details of each fastener 1 and element 8, in particular the way in which the fastener 1 is restrained from turning within its cavity 5, and bonding of the element 8 is facilitated, will now be described with reference to Figures 3 to 6.

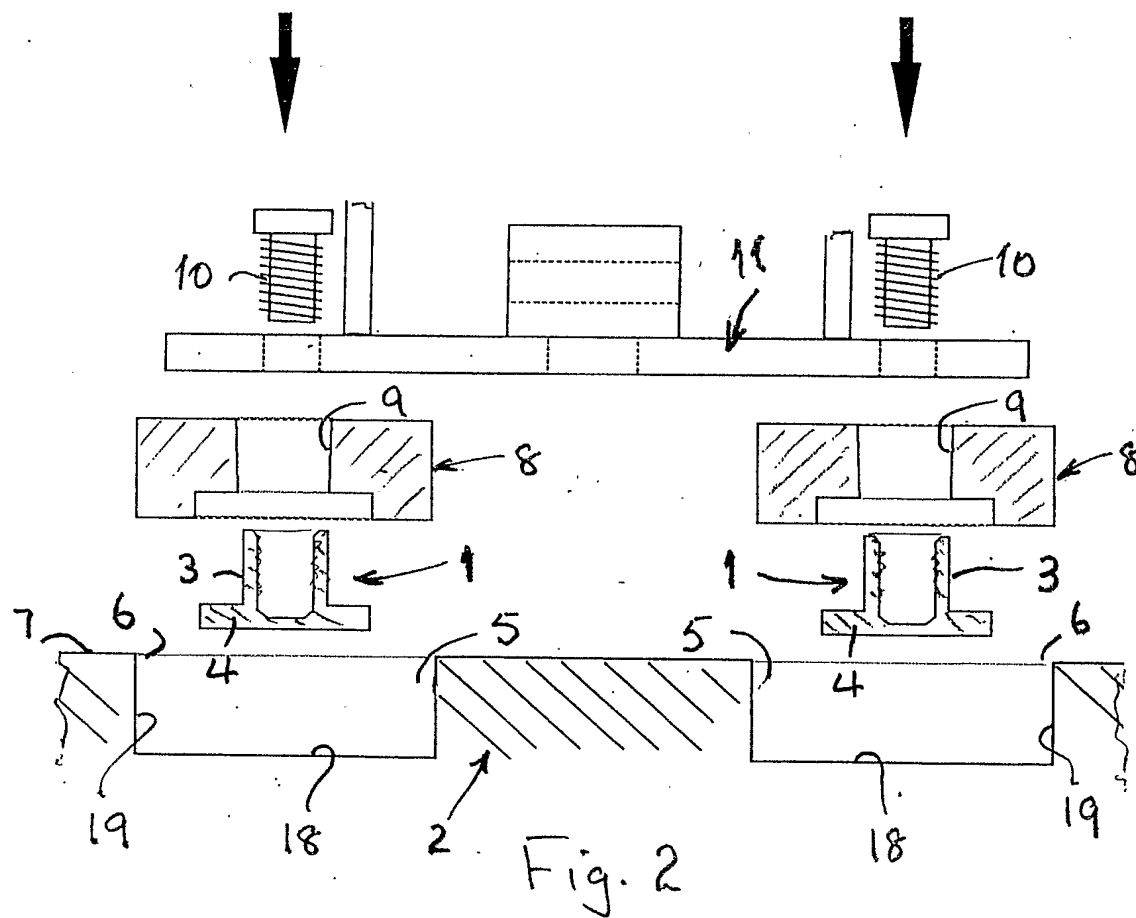
Referring to Figure 3 and 4, the fastener 1 is of one-piece construction, with its flanged-base 4 of elongate configuration having straight, parallel sides 12 and rounded ends 13. As shown in Figures 5 and 6, the underside 14 of the element 8 has a recess 15 that is to the same elongate configuration so that it receives the flanged-base 4 inset therein. More especially, the recess 15 has straight, parallel sides 16 and rounded ends 17 conforming to the sides 12 and ends 13 respectively.

Accordingly, the method of assembly with anchoring of the fastener 1 within the slab member 2 can be readily carried out, once the appropriate cavity 5 has been drilled, simply by first bringing the fastener 1 towards the underside 14 of the element 8 with the tubular portion 3 in register with the bore 9 within the recess 15. The fastener 1 is now closed onto the underside 14 to extend the portion 3 the full length of the bore 9 and inset the flanged-base 4 within the recess 15. Abutment of the sides 12 with the sides 16 in this assembly precludes turning of the fastener 1 relative to the element 8.

The assembled fastener 1 and element 8 are now inserted into their respective cavity 5 to bring the flanged-base 4 down into abutment with the bottom 18 of the cavity 5, after a film of the appropriate adhesive has been deposited on the bottom 18 and side wall 19 of the cavity 5 (Figure 2). The underside 14 of the element 8 is cut away to leave a peripheral channel 20 with interconnected radial channels 21 for dispersal of surplus adhesive (Figures 5 and 6).

In one application of the invention as illustrated in Figure 7, a slab 22 corresponding to the slab 2 forms a door to a kitchen cabinet, and a bracket 23 of a hinge 24 is clamped to the back face 25 of the slab 22 using four screw bolts 26. Each screw-bolt 26 is engaged tightly with a fastener corresponding to the fastener 1, anchored correspondingly to the slab.







2/4

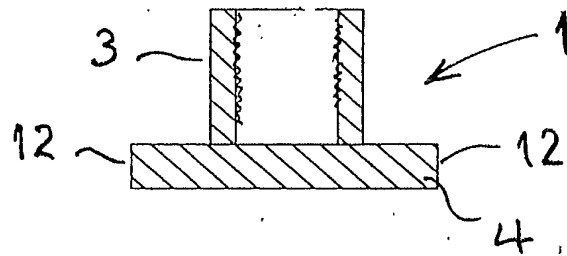


Fig. 3

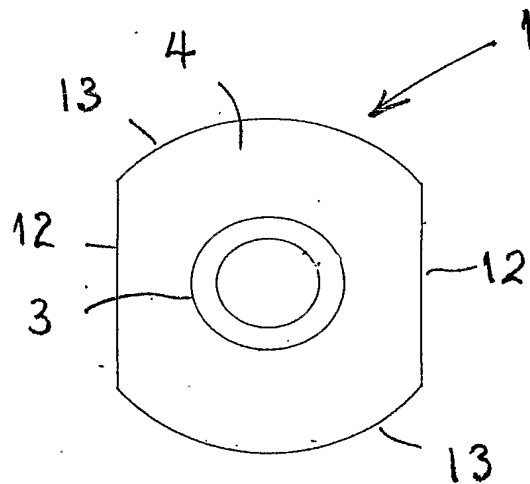


Fig. 4



3/4

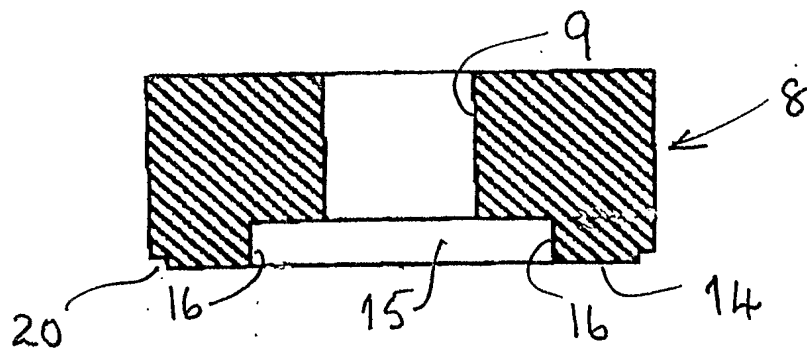


Fig. 5

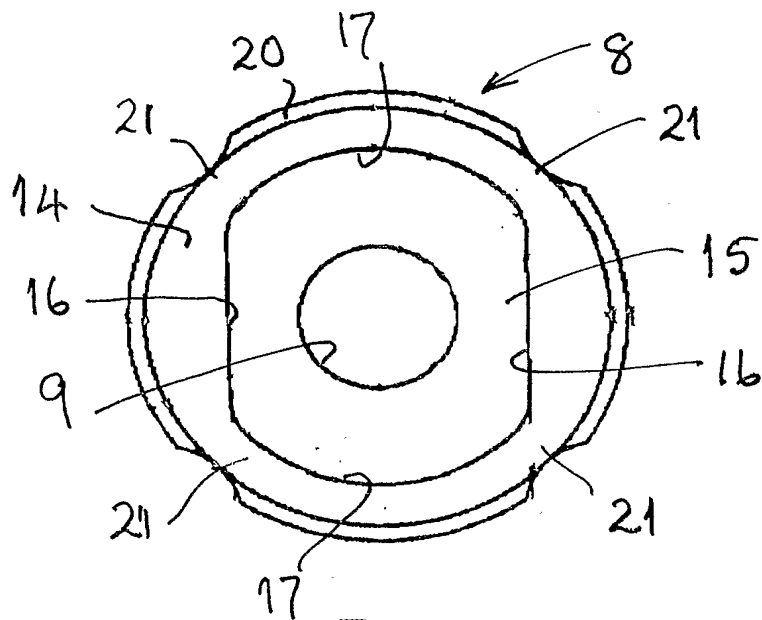


Fig. 6



4/4

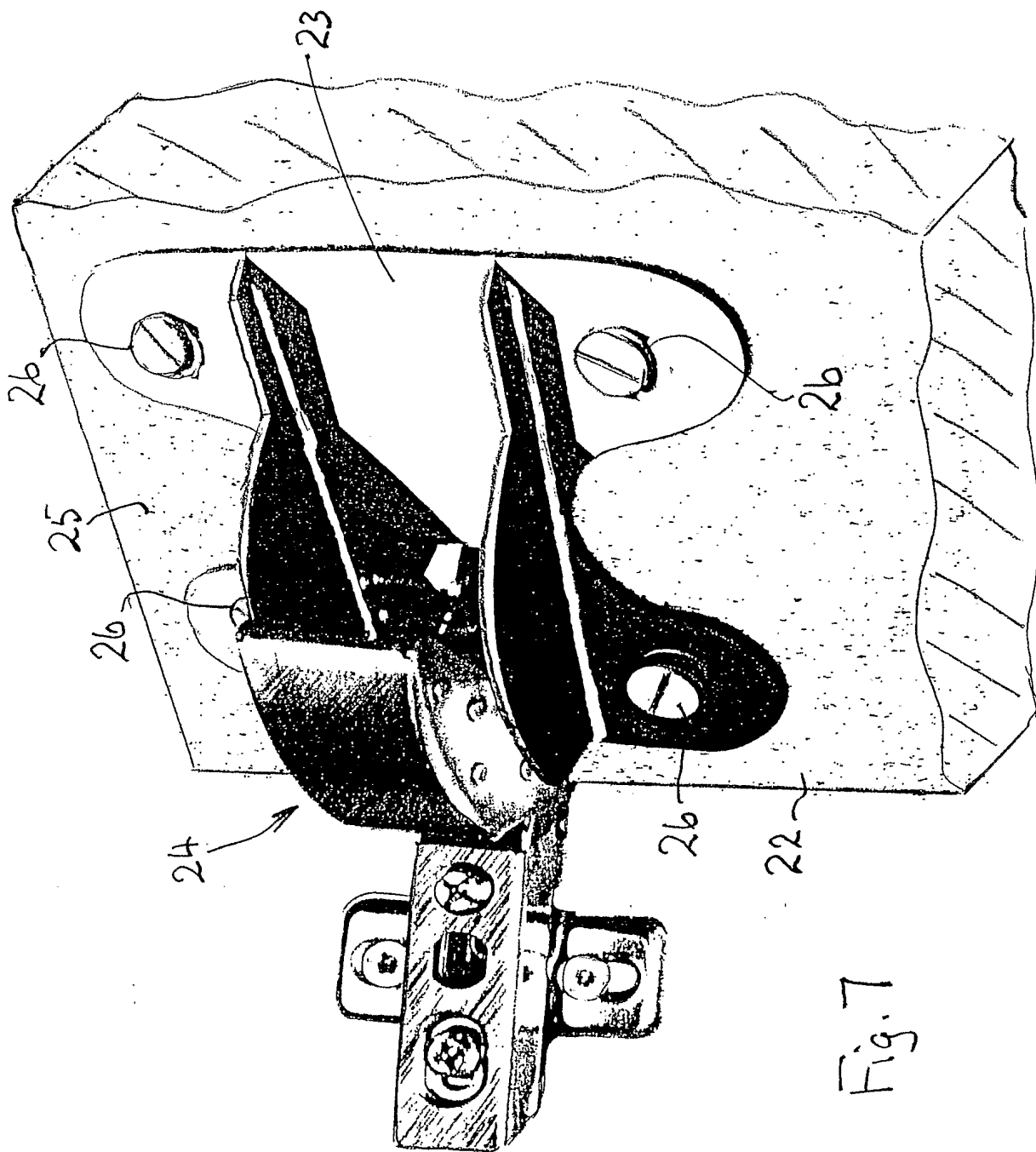


Fig. 7



44-38861-1000

44-38861-1000